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10 December 1966

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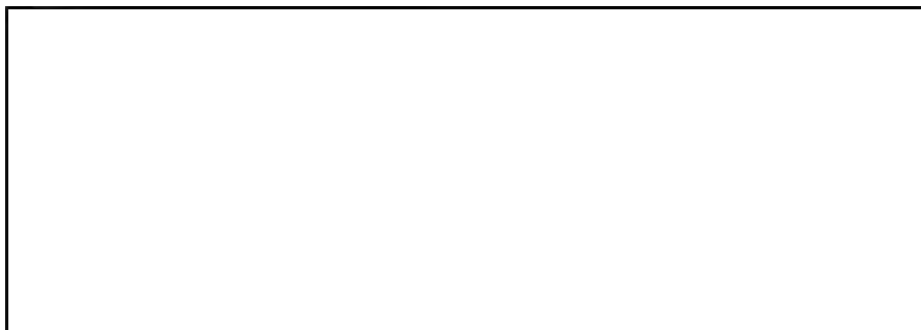
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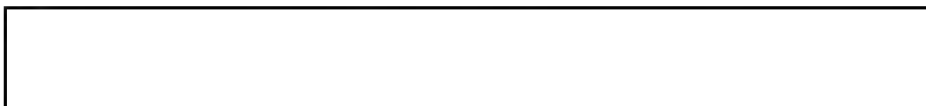
Central Intelligence Bulletin

CONTENTS




25X1

4. Thailand: Communists gaining among northern tribal elements. (Page 5)



25X1

6. USSR-France: No new major agreements reached during Kosygin's visit. (Page 8)

7. Notes:  Togo; Guinea; Bolivia.
(Page 9)

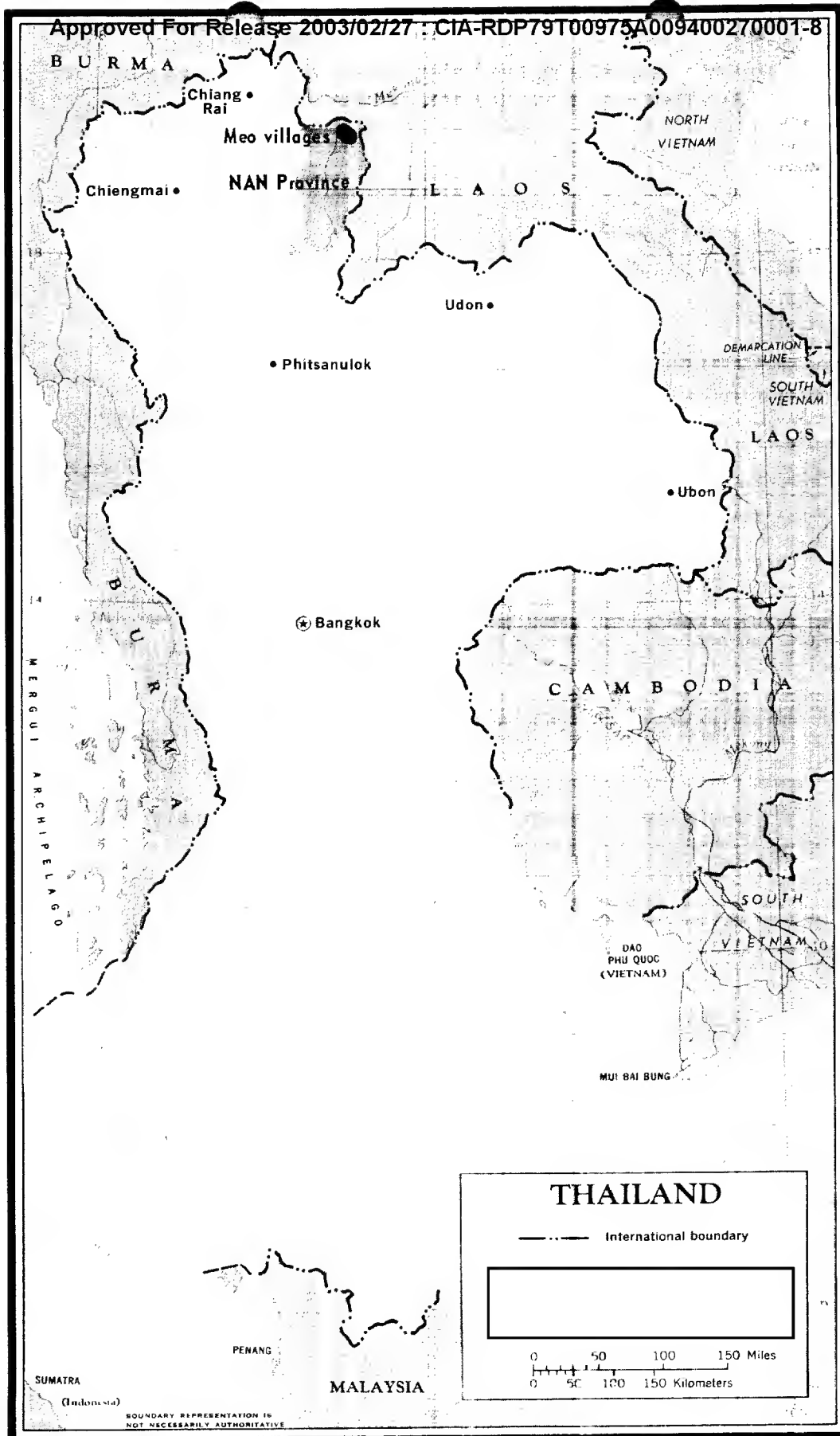
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25X1

25X1

25X1

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Thailand: The Communists, in addition to their activities in the northeast, are apparently scoring gains among some tribal elements in northern Thailand.

25X1

[redacted] the Communists have brought under control a complex of eight Meo villages in north-eastern Nan Province since early this year. In addition to strengthening their political apparatus in the villages, the Communists have now brought in cadre from Laos to give weapons training to villagers.

The Communists are also reportedly sending Meos to Laos and North Vietnam for military and ideological training.

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25X1

[redacted] The area's rugged terrain, its accessibility to Communist-controlled areas in Laos, and the absence of an effective Thai government presence have made it a natural target for Communist subversion. There is no evidence, however, that the Communists have made any progress with numerous other tribal groups located in the area.

25X1

10 Dec 66

5

25X1

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25X1

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USSR-France: The joint statement winding up Premier Kosygin's visit to France portrays an overall improvement in Franco-Soviet relations, but records no new agreements on major international issues.

The two countries reiterated their general view that the war in Vietnam stems from "foreign interference" and is a threat to peace. Their statement resembled the declaration ending De Gaulle's visit to the USSR last June.

It is clear that Kosygin failed to reduce De Gaulle's opposition to a nonproliferation agreement. The question of German reunification, which figured prominently in Kosygin's speeches during his visit, was not mentioned, leaving unchanged the differences between the public positions of the two countries on this question.

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10 Dec 66

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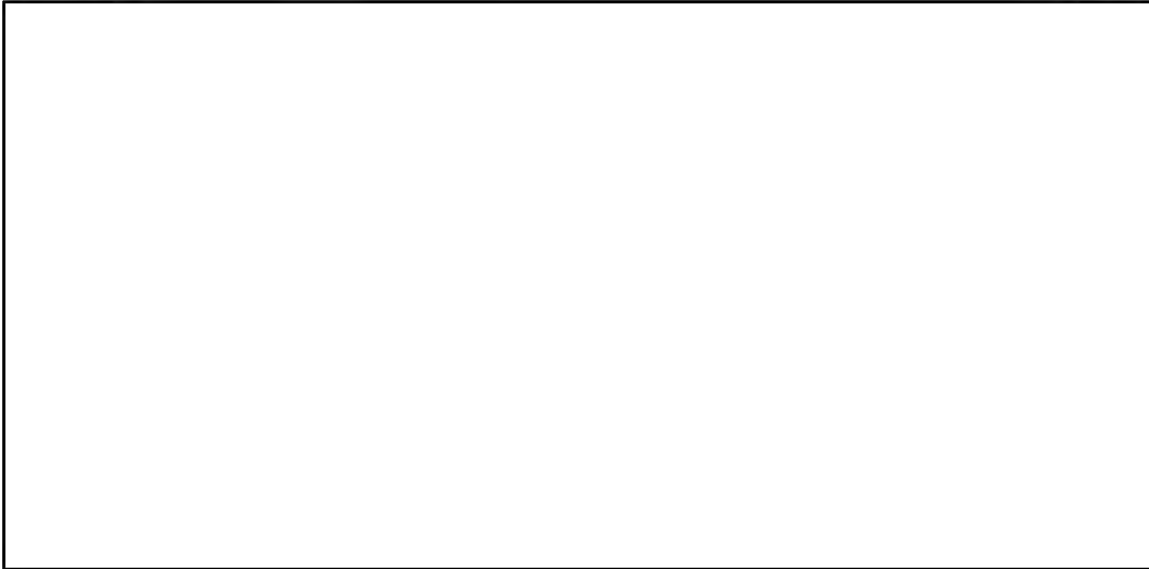
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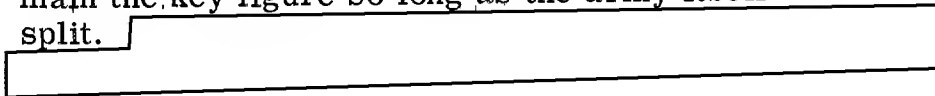
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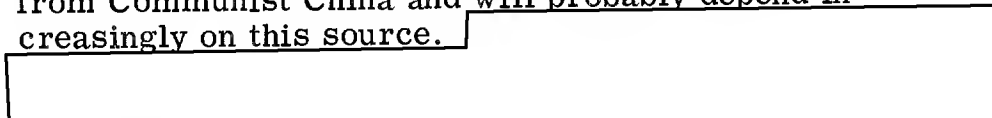
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Togo: Political tension has become acute in Lome, and the US Embassy anticipates early changes in the composition or character of the government. Among various pressures at play in the present unsettled situation is a behind-the-scenes bid by Vice-President Meatchi to bring about the resignation of President Grunitzky, who survived a coup attempt by opposition elements only last month. Meatchi's scheme is said to be opposed, however, by army chief Eyadema, who is likely to remain the key figure so long as the army itself does not split.



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Guinea: . President Toure now seems to have reached the point where he is determined to do without US assistance. Toure evidently has no intention of moderating the continuing barrage of public charges by his regime that US aid is an instrument to corrupt or blackmail Guinea. He is said to have informed his cabinet recently that US aid is "out." Guinea recently obtained new assistance from Communist China and will probably depend increasingly on this source.



25X1

10 Dec 66

9

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25X1

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*Bolivia: The authority of the government and the personal prestige of President Barrientos are at stake in the impending confrontation between 4,000 striking tin miners and national guard troops at Huanuni. Yesterday Barrientos traveled to Huanuni and spoke to the miners in an attempt to end the dispute, but the miners rejected his appeal. National guard troops are standing by, and probably will be sent into the area. Any serious violence in Huanuni could provoke similar incidents in other mining areas, and could also endanger the stability of the government.

25X1

10 Dec 66

10

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